

NEGRO WELFARE LEAGUE OF NEW JERSEY

Clipping from

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April 30, 1918.

Negro Welfare Bureau Reports on Activities

Work Obtained for ex-Convicts as
Well as Migrants—Housing Pro-
vided and Loan Aided.

To Be Part of Labor Department

TRENTON, April 30 (A.P.).—A report called for by Governor Edge from the officials of the Negro Welfare and Employment Bureau, which was legalized by the last Legislature in what was known as the "migrant bill," shows that this new activity has succeeded in obtaining employment, not only for negroes migrating from the South, but also for negroes suddenly released from penal institutions and otherwise under a handicap. Branches of the work have been formed in many counties of the state, resulting in free medical treatment of migrants, improvement of housing conditions, care of stranded soldiers, subscriptions to the third Liberty Loan totaling \$23,000, and various other activities.

Although the law was not enacted until March, colored men personally interested in the work organized the activities of the bureau at their own expense as early as last October. The welfare bureau was created within the Department of Labor, and Governor Edge has made an arrangement with Commissioner of Labor Lewis T. Bryant whereby the bureau will become an officially maintained sub-department of the Department of Labor henceforth.

The report, submitted to the Governor by Isaac N. Nutter of Atlantic City, director of the bureau, sets forth that employment has been found at the Hog Island Ship Yard for 300 men and 185 men have been placed on a railroad job at Mt. Holly. Thirty others were put in jobs with the Farmers' Supply & Produce Co. Work was found for seven negroes released from the state prison and employment has also been obtained for all released since December 20.

These men will go to work as soon as the prison officials pass upon the conditions. In the mean time, through Rev. H. C. Van Pelt, they have pledged themselves to serve as social workers among their former associates.

To Place 500 at Proving Ground.

The bureau also is about to place 500 men at the Bethlehem Steel Company's proving ground at Nays Landing.

Statements by sheriffs, the report says, show there has been no increase of criminality caused by the migration of negroes from the South, except in the neighborhood of Penns Grove, where the du Pont powder works are located. This increase is normal, considering the increase of population. Sheriff William T. Miffin of Salem County is quoted as saying, Sheriff Wagner of Hudson has reported an increase of crime in that county, but it is diminishing to normal through the efforts of James W. Robertson and Robert S. Hartgrove, bureau representatives co-operating with civic organizations.

Continuing the report says:

"The housing conditions are well in hand in all sections except Newark, which are being looked after by the bureau through Mrs. Pauline Baxter, Alfred C. Gibson and George Bates in their co-operation with the various civic organizations of Essex County. A social aid organization has been organized by the bureau under the supervision of Mrs. Pauline Baxter of Newark, who is co-operating with the teachers of the various school districts and the ministers of the state, and who is looking after the juveniles, getting them back in school and rectifying their home environment."

"There are three on the pay roll—Dr. P. L. Hawkins, \$1,200; T. Thomas Fortune, \$750; Julia H. Dorsey, \$480. Five bureau representatives are to serve at the offices of the Federal-State Employment Agency. These representatives have given their labor without any expense to the bureau. The director himself has paid all expenses, including hall rent, printing and traveling. The bureau is receiving support from sheriffs and officials of the various counties."